SHINONOME TANTEI IBUN-KOKU

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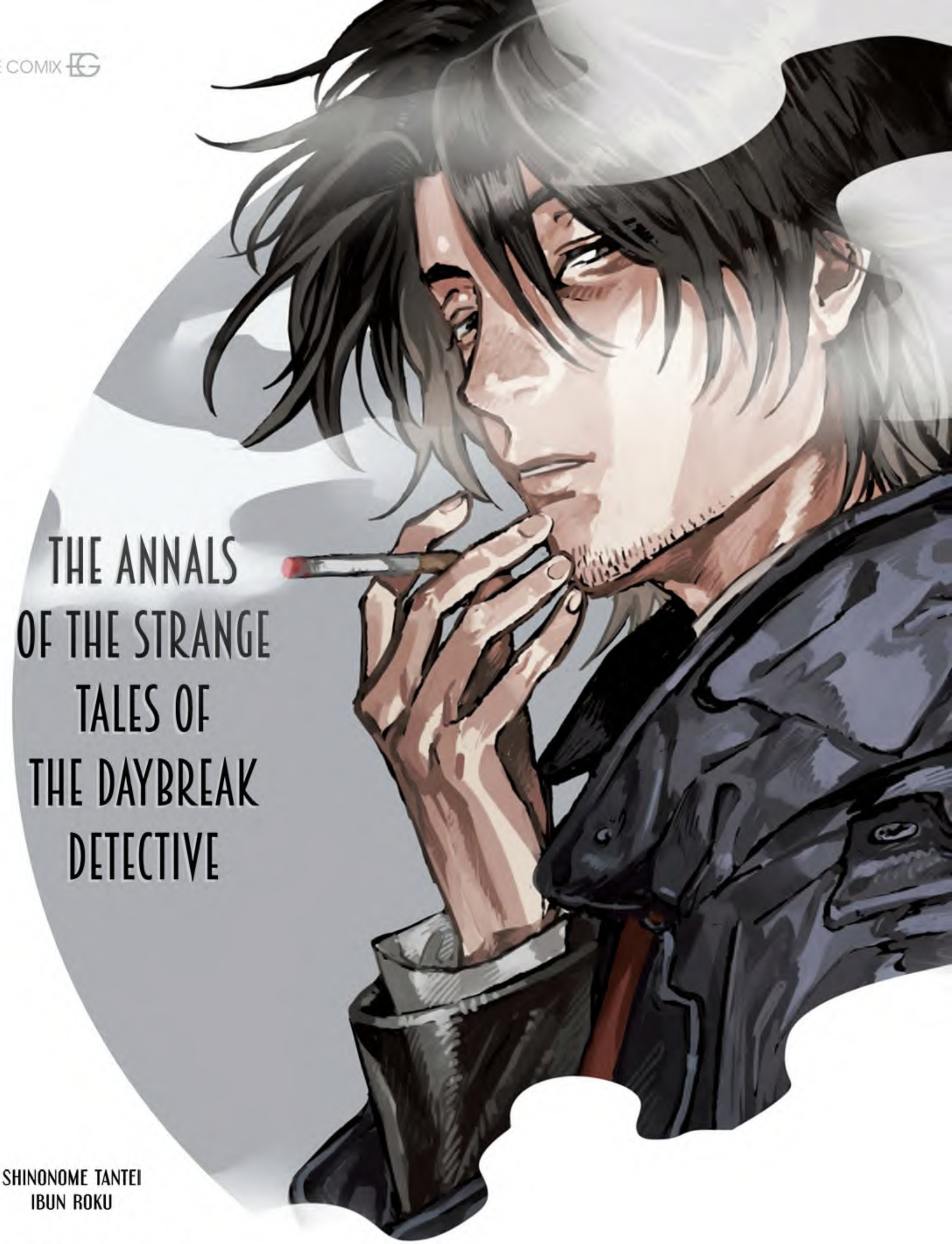

THE ANNALS OF THE STRANGE TALES OF THE DAYBREAK DETECTIVE

SHINONOME TANTEI
IBUN ROKU

JOHN TARATSUMI

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Chapter 1

10 minutes on foot from the station through the shopping district.

Please mind

the gap.

20 minutes by train from home to the university.

35 minutes by train from the university to that station.

Up the stairs of an old apartment building and through a frosted-glass door...

KA—

CHAK

GREETINGS.

HELLO.

GOOD MORNING.

Oh.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

nod

THANKS TO YOU.

ALL DONE WITH YOUR EXAMS?

KNOCK

KNOCK

squeal

WAKI-SAN IS AS HANDSOME AS USUAL TODAY...

EXCUSE ME...

GOOD WORK.

This is my workplace...

PLEASE COME IN.

IS THERE SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU?

I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK FOR MY CAT...

The Daybreak Detective Agency.

The Annals of the Strange Tales of the Daybreak Detective

Chapter 1

TAMURA DENTISTRY

Detective Touchin Waki-san.

Thanks.

WILL DO!

RIKA.

squeal♡

I HAVE THE CLIENT REQUESTS FROM YESTERDAY, BOSS...

HE'S SO COOL! I LIKE HIM! I LOVE HIM!

CAN YOU GATHER TOGETHER THE MOST RECENT REPORTS QUICKLY?

JUST THE USEFUL ONES.

Great!

YOUR TEA.

the only one below me is the man called Hoshihiko.

I LOVE HOW ELEGANT HE IS.

since before he was born

..He's been gay

INFIDELITY CASES?

YES.

Boss Shinonome's history is a mystery, but...

and...

HE'S BEAUTIFUL, BUT...

...WAS IT ME?

It seems suspicious.

HE'S BEEN COMING SINCE LAST WEEK, BUT...

WHO INTRODUCED HOSHIHIKO-SAN?

A GHOST ...

Wh-what kind of relationship do you...?!

WAKI-SAN ?!

PROBA-BLY.

...PROBA-BLY?!

CLATTER

HE'S A GHOST, ISN'T HE?

HE WAS ASSOCI-ATED WITH A CASE OF OURS IN IKAHO.

SHUDDER

...PLEASE DON'T TEASE ME.

STARTLED

HAHA!

DROOP

HMPH!

IS HE TARGETING THE OFFICE'S MONEY?

No one will say anything about this handsome man.

Smile

CLACK

CLACK

BUT WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY HERE...

It's too suspicious...

Smile

SHALL WE GO?

HAVE YOU GATHERED THE DOCUMENTATION ON THE LOST CAT?

YES, MORE OR LESS.

FOR YOU.

IT'S CHOCO-LATE.

I GOT IT FROM A CLIENT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

GLANCE

munch SCORE!

munch

ON A JOB WITH JUST WAKI-SAN AND ME!

LET'S START IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD...

OKAY!

AND THEN WE'LL BE READY FOR ACTION.

You got the traps?

You bet!

LET'S WALK AROUND.

HEAVY

UGH!

YEAH. SURE THING.

AND WE ALSO HAVE A MAP OF THE CAT'S PRESUMED RANGE

THAT A VET HELPED ME MAKE.

I CONVERTED A RECORDING OF THE OWNER'S VOICE TO MP3

AND WE'LL SET UP TRAPS WITH FOOD IN VARIOUS PLACES.

Deli-Meows

Mii-chan!

Mii...

THEY'RE CALLING MII-CHAN.

T/N: about $7.75 US!

IT'S HARD WORK FOR 850* YEN AN HOUR.

MI—CHA—N

BUT THE REALITY IS IT'S ALL INFIDELITY INVESTIGATIONS AND OFFICE POLITICS. NOT TO MENTION THE ODD JOBS.

JUST HONEST WORK.

MII—

THIS LOOKING FOR LOST CATS IS HARD WORK!

WITH NO HELP, AND IT'S ALL LEGWORK ...

Don't stare!

Wah!

I MEAN I HAD THIS IMAGE OF DETECTIVE WORK: "THRILLS, SHOCKS, AND SUSPENSE!" BUT...

WHY?

I'M NOT GONNA QUIT!

I WANT TO STAY FOR A LONG TIME!

BUT IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM FOR ME IF YOU QUIT RIGHT NOW.

REALLY ...?

DETECTIVE WORK, THAT IS.

wheeze

wheeze

YOU, THAT IS.

...BECAUSE I LOVE IT.

wheeze

wheeze

LOVE THIS KIND OF WORK?

MANUAL LABOR

HUH?

DON'T YOU, TOO, WAKI-SAN?

...WHO KNOWS?

YOU LOVE IT, AND THAT'S WHY YOU DO IT.

OH...

...

WHAT WAS WITH THAT PAUSE JUST NOW?

OH.

WAKI-SA—

IT MIGHT BE A CAT ASSEMBLY HALL.

HUH? BUT THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS AN 8-YEAR-OLD BLACK CAT.

THAT'S AN ABANDONED HOUSE.

A GINGER CAT JUST CAME OUT OF THAT HOUSE.

CHING

SEARCHING FOR CATS IS IN SOME WAYS LIKE A TIMED GAME.

LET'S CIRCLE THE VERANDA.

Cats are usually pretty cautious, it seems...

BUT THE PROBABILITY IS LOW THAT THE CAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR WOULD GO SO FAR OUTSIDE ITS RANGE.

fwump

Allez oop!

I SEE...

FROM THE MOUTH OF WAKI-SAN...

"A CAT ASSEMBLY HALL..."

MOE!

OH. A DISH HAS BEEN LEFT OUT.

CHING

Oh!

NO, THIS IS...

THEN MAYBE THE HOUSE ISN'T VACANT?

YES, SIR!

I'LL GO AROUND THE BACK, SO YOU BE READY WITH THE NET.

Keep it down.

THAT'S HIM!

THE COLLAR!

HE'S THINNER THAN IN THE PHOTO, BUT IT'S THE SAME COLLAR!

TAP

TAP

CREAK

ADVERTISING ITEMS

drip

blink

WAKI-SAN!!

STARTLE

WHOOSH

...RIKA!

YAAAY!

MEOW

I CAUGHT HIM!

MEYOWL

...NICE WORK.

huff

OW OW OW!

YEAH, ISN'T IT GREAT? WE SHOULD GO STRAIGHT BACK.

IT'S LATE, SO I'LL TAKE HIM BACK BY CAR.

THE TRAPS AND SUCH ARE HEAVY...

GOT IT!

GIVE THE CLIENT A CALL SO SHE CAN COME GET HIM TOMORROW.

Taxi...

MM.

Good work today!

SLAM

CLANG....

CLANG...

MUST BE HARD NOT TO SMOKE WHEN YOU'RE ON A CAT ASSIGNMENT.

Meowr

CLUNK

FOOM

KA-CHAK

...WHO KNOWS?

IT'S THE SMELL.

...DID YOU COME BACK TO SEE ME?

YOU AND I ARE BOTH...

...CHARMED BY THIS SMELL.

TECTIVE AGEN

THE SMELL...?

DETECTIVE AGENCY

HOW CAN I ANSWER THAT...?

flap

REGISTER OF DEATHS

◆CHAPTER 2/END◆

Chapter 2

I CLING EVEN TO THE PART OF ME THAT LIES.

WON'T GET IT TOO HARD BEFORE LONG?

SHINONO-ME-SAN...

EVEN IF YOU LIE TO YOUR BODY ...

ONLY TO YOUR BODY?

SHUT UP.

P-TMP

THE LIES.

The Annals of the Strange Tales of the Daylight Detective

Chapter 2

WELL...

THERE'S SOMETHING I'M A LITTLE CURIOUS ABOUT.

WHAT DID YOU SAY? WE'RE GOING BACK TO THAT HOUSE WITH THE CAT AGAIN?

BUT IT WASN'T COMPLETELY CLEAR.

WE SOLVED THAT ONE...

THAT SCENT...

BUT,

WHAT ...?

THE TWO OF YOU ...

WHAT IS YOUR RELATION-SHIP?

drip

ARE YOU RELATED ...?

OH, NO, NOT AT ALL.

WHAT IS IT?

CUTE BOSS AND GLOOMY EMPLOYEE, MAYBE?

Hah...

NOW, WHEN WAS IT WE MET?

BECAUSE WAKI DIDN'T GO TO HIGH SCHOOL, YOU KNOW.

REALLY ...?

HE WAS A KID, WANDERING AROUND SHINJUKU.

I THOUGHT I'D TAKE HIM INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY, BUT...

...WELL AT THE TIME, HE STANK, SO...

I HAD THE NOTION OF GETTING HIM IN A BATH.

FOR NOW, YOU SHOULD USE A MASK.

Here.

I don't need one.

OH? BUT I SAID YOU DON'T SMELL...

NO, IT'S BECAUSE WE'LL BE THERE IN A MINUTE.

NOWADAYS, HE HAS NEITHER THAT KIND OF SMELL NOR A STRONG PRESENCE.

FREE -ZE

OH. THAT'S RIGHT.

meow

THE HOUSE WHERE THAT CAT WAS.

FOR THAT REASON, THERE'S PRACTICALLY NO NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS.

SEEMS LIKE IT WAS CALLED THE "CAT MANSION" AROUND THE NEIGHBOUR-HOOD.

WAS CALLED?

THERE ARE LOTS OF CATS.

WHAT A STINK.

CLATTER

NOT MANY PEOPLE COME TO VISIT.

Huff

THERE SURE IS A LOT OF NEWSPAPER ...

IT'S IN RUINS.

Huff

IT'S A STEREOTYPICAL CAT MANSION.

Huff

...WAKI-SAN...?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Flinch

I THINK THE PROBABILITY IS HIGH THAT IN THE BATHROOM ...

...THAT'S RIGHT. WITH THE CAT SMELL, IT'S HARD TO NOTICE.

...

I SEE.

huff

huff

...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YOUR FACE IS PALE...

OI.

GO AHEAD AND GO BACK.

IT'S FINE IF I MEET WITH THE POLICE ON MY OWN.

nod

DYING ALONE, HUH?

DAYBREAK DETECTIVE AGENCY

IT DOES.

BECAUSE I HAD THE FEELING THE CHIEF WAS USED TO IT.

DOES THAT HAPPEN A LOT?

Daybreak Detective Agency

HUH?

...USED TO IT, HUH?

KA-CHAK

WAKI-SAN!

WELCOME BACK!

AH!

I'll put the tea on.

ANY PHONE CALLS OR ANYTHING?

NOTHING, REALLY.

WELL, THERE WAS ONE PRANK CALL...

...and Hoshi-whatever-san.

IT'S HOSHIHIKO.

TSK

SE-

DID YOU GET A REWARD FROM THE CHIEF THIS TIME,

WAKI-SAN?

THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A GHOST...

PRANK CALLS ARE KINDA RARE.

THESE DAYS THEY DON'T WANT TO CALL THIS KIND OF DOWN-AT-HEEL OFFICE.

BUT NEVER MIND THAT!

MEAT IS...

I'VE BEEN OFF MEAT FOR A WHILE...

CRACK

NO...

Your commission?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?

OH, BECAUSE WE CAUGHT THE CAT?

MEAT.

Thanks!

Don't you want to eat meat?

I don't want to eat dirt.

?

RUMBLE

THAT WAS A LIE. VEGETABLES. VEGETABLES ARE FINE. I MEAN, ANYTHING WOULD BE FINE. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO EAT DIRT.

OH...

YEAH.

A haha!

RIKA-KUN IS LIKE A DOG.

HUH?!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

dribble

IT'S CUTE.

HUH...?

No, it's...

What's with that face?

TTR

WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY HANG UP ON ME?!

HUH?

OH, WELCOME ...

HEY!

P-TMP

BECAUSE I'M SERIOUS !!

I HEARD YOU GUYS DO GHOST EXTERMINA-TIONS!

...HUH?

◆ CHAPTER 2/END ◆